



THE HOOT OWL

STOCKTON AUDUBON SOCIETY

Vol 25 #3

Calendar



May-June 1987

FIELD TRIP: Saturday May 2. Lodi Lake Nature Area. This is one of our best areas for spring birding. For details see the last issue of the Hoot Owl or call leader Kurt Mize at 957-0676. Trip starts on the east side of Lodi Lake at the end of Laurel St. at 7:30am.

ANNUAL STOCKTON AUDUBON SPRING BRUNCH AND BIRDWALK. Saturday May 9th at the Oak Grove Regional Park, Alder Picnic Area. The birdwalk begins at 8:30 and the brunch at 10:00. Bring your own favorite dish to share and your own tableware. Stockton Audubon will provide the beverages. There will be a brief election meeting following brunch. Call Kathy Schick at 464-7083 or George or Locke Welch at 477-9618 for further information.

California Native Plant Society meeting announcement. Flowering Plants and California Wildflowers by Joe Medeiros. Friday May 15, 7:30pm Modesto Junior College East Campus, Forum Building. Room 110.

Stockton Audubon Service Project: From 8 to 10 on Saturday May 16 and the same hours on June 13 we will water, weed and care for the plantings and bird oasis at the Oak Grove Regional Park. Come check the success of the new method of planting valley oaks. Call Karl Kothe at 464-1004 or Steve Stocking at 4652729.

Senior Awareness Day will be Thursday May 21 at Mickies Grove Regional Park. Stockton Audubon is planning to have an informational booth. Could you help with the booth during the day? Do you have some Audubon Magazines to give away? Call coordinator Forest Landeen at 477-1865 if you can help.

FIELD TRIP: Sunday May 31. Caswell State Park and Durham Ferry. These fine areas along the Stanislaus and San Joaquin Rivers are excellent for viewing late spring migrants and local nesters. Transient Willow Flycatcher and Western Tanager will be looked for with nesting Swainson's Hawk, Blue Grosbeak and Lazuli Bunting to be expected. Meet leader Sally Walters at the entrance to Caswell at 6:30am. For more information call 951-8408.

FIELD TRIP: Saturday June 6. CALAVERAS BIG TREES STATE PARK. Our annual visit to look for grosbeaks, warblers, vireos, white-headed woodpecker, and possible pileated woodpecker. The abundance of birds and gorgeous wildflower displays makes this one of the year's favorites. Meet Steve Stocking at 7:30 at Burn's Tower, U.O.P. to carpool. This will be a full day so bring lunch. Call Steve at 465-2729 for more information.

FIELD TRIP: UPPER MOKELUMNE RIVER. Saturday June 30. This will be a birding/rafting trip combo. The upper Mokelumne River along Electra Road near Mokelumne Hill is at an elevation where Yellow Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat & Spotted Sandpiper are known to nest. Many

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STOCKTON AUDUBON OFFICERS ANNOUNCED FOR 1987-1988

Ann Mullin.....President	Heather Ryan.....Board Member
Sally Walters..Vice-President	Steve Stocking....Board Member
Victor Wycoff..Secretary	Terry Ronneberg...Board Member
Nancy Ballot...Treasurer	Lois Davis.....Board Member

To make the slate official, come vote at the Picnic on May 9th.

WILDLIFE HABITAT AND PARKLAND INITIATIVE ENDORSED BY AUDUBON

The National Audubon Society has endorsed a proposed initiative to preserve wildlife habitat and parkland throughout California. This measure is of particular interest to the Audubon Society because it will provide funds to permanently protect California's most endangered lands; wetlands and riparian habitat. The initiative would place a bond act on the June 1988 ballot, and would provide funds to purchase habitat for rare and endangered species, wetlands, and riparian areas throughout the State, and additions to State and local Park Systems.

There are some local areas proposed for purchase in which we have had great interest. These include Brovelli Woods, Delta Meadows near Locke and Hope Valley on Hiway 88. Do you want areas in which to bird and to hike and to fish in the future? Do you realize that these and many other areas are threatened by development?

If you are interested in volunteering to help gather signatures, please send a note to campaign headquarters, Californians for Parks and Wildlife 909 12th St, Suite 203, Sacramento Ca. 95814. You will also receive a petition through the mail in June from National Audubon. Please fill it out and return it immediately.

You need to do this for you, your children and your grandchildren. Parks and wildlife are for the future.

NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION IN BELLINGHAM WASHINGTON, August 24-29. 1987

Washington State Chapters will host an outstanding array of field trips including pelagic trips for sea birds, birding and wildflower outings to Mt Baker, Mt Ranier, and Mt St. Helens.

The Convention program will highlight the Pacific Northwest and its "ancient forests", but will also be national and international in scope and feature a variety of chapter leadership sessions and "how to" workshops. Science programs, sanctuary updates, the latest developments in education, Washington D.C. political insights, regional concerns, chapter activities and many more interesting topics will be part of the agenda. Fun social activities are being planned by the host chapters. All who go enjoy Audubon Conventions.

For information and registration forms contact the Audubon Western Regional Office in Sacramento.

WEEKEND WILDFLOWERS: SEQUOIA NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Your editor is again offering one of the seminars for this organization. The dates are June 27 and 28, the cost \$35, and the location is the Grant Grove area of Kings Canyon National Park. There will be easy walks through meadow, forests and Sequoia Groves at the peak of the Spring at 6,500 feet in the Sierra. Call Steve, 465-2729 for information.

LOCAL "BOY" MAKES GOOD.

Did you see the February 1987 issue of the Smithsonian Magazine? The article, "Merv Larson's Team Takes Nature to the Animals by Bob Reiss is about a Stockton native who attended Stockton College, College of the Pacific and went on to be curator and director of the Sonora Desert Museum near Tucson. He developed lifelike habitats for animals in zoos and now heads his company which builds them for zoos all over the world.

IRDS

Except as noted, sightings are by David Yee.

SSP= Stockton Sewage Ponds, LL= Lodi Lake,
LSP= Lodi Sewage Ponds.

2/20 Black-th Gray Warbler, "Slate-colored" Junco & a Greater Scaup, the Scaup at SSP and the others at the Stockton Rural Cemetary. 2/24, 5 Common Mergansers at LL. 2/27 50 Mew Gulls at LSP. 3/6 2 "Blue" Snow Geese and a "Blue" Ross' Goose as well as 3 Swainson's Hawks at Empire Tract.

On 3/7, 26 birders and 58 bird species showed up in the Commanche-Hogan Dam areas when Stockton Audubon had a field-trip theres. The avian species included C. & H. Mergansers, Wood Duck, Osprey, Eurasian Wigeon, but no eagles although we did observe many W.P. Turtles.

3/11 a single Solitary Vireo and a Black & White Warbler at LL. 3/12 a pair of Blue-w Teal at LSP. 3/17 an Osprey, a White-th Sparrow and 50 Pine Siskin at LL. 3/18 a Clark's Grebe at SSP. 3/20 a Red-th Loon at White Slough. 3/31 5 W Kingbird, 2 Laurences' Goldfinch, 10 Rufours-cr Sparrow & 3 Canyon Wren on Corral Hollow Road. 4/1 3 Little Gulls at SSP, 4/3 a Red-br Nuthatch, a Warbling Vireo and 3 Blue-gr Gnatcatchers at LL. On 4/5 Harold Berg reported a Y.H. Blackbird, C. Teal and R.N. Duck a the pond beyond Bellota on Hiway 26. 4/ 6 found 2 W. Grebe, a Marbled Godwit and a Caspian Tern at SSP. 4/9 a Hooded Oriole at LL. 4/14 a Nashville Warbler at LL. 4/16 3 Black-ch Hummer, a Hammond's Flycatcher, 2 West. Flycatcher, an Ash-th Flycatcher, a Hermit Warbler, a Blk-h Grosbeak and 2 Lazuli Bunting at LL. 4-16 S. Stocking observed 10 Blk-n Stilt at the Thornton Sewage Treatment ponds on I-5. 4-18 S. Walters & R. Wilson observed a L.H Shrike with young, and Dunlin, B.B. Plover and W. Sandpiper in breeding plumage at Jepson Prairie.. On 4-19 they observed 2 Ash-th Flycatchers, Chipping Sparrow, and Hermit Thrush in breeding plumage and they heard a B.G. Gnatcatcher at Lodi Lake Park. On 4/17 David Yee observed both a Short-billed Dowitcher and a Wilson's Phalarope at the Stockton S.P. On May 20th S. Walters and R. Wilson observed Chipping Sparrow, Solitary Vireo, Nashville Warbler and 2 Swainsons Hawks all in Breeding plumage and all at the Oak Grove Park. On that same day they observed a Little Gull, Spotted Sandpiper, G. Yellowlegs, Wilson's Phalarope and S. Plover in breeding Plumage at the Stockton Sewage Ponds. 4-25 S. Stocking and members of his class observed Black-necked Stilts and a Bittern in the ponds at the corner of Hiway 12 and I-5.



FIELD TRIPS (cont from page 1)

other species can be expected.

After birding in the morning we will have lunch at the top of the river where nice picnic facilities are available. Leaders David and Sue Yee will then take anyone who wishes down the river on rafts. The run takes only about 40 minutes but just enough white-water to make it exciting is present. Meet at the car-pool parking lot at Hammer and Hwy 99 at 8:00. For more information call 93]-]526 pr 466-3337.

Field Trip: BOAT TRIP TO THE FARALLON ISLANDS: Saturday July 11.

The Farallon Islands, due west of the Golden Gate, play host to our largest seabird colonies. Nesting Murres, Puffins, and Cormorants can be observed on the islands while Black-footed Albatross, N. Fulmar, Sooty, Flesh-footed and Buller's Shearwaters can be seen over open waters. The cost of this all day trip in \$32.00 and spaces are limited, so make your reservations soon. Call David Yee at 951-1526 or 466-3337.

NOTE: We were unable to schedule the Del Puerto Canyon overnight this spring, but plan for next April.

ANDREW JACKSON GRAYSON: AUDUBON OF THE WEST

The paintings of Grayson, a 19th -century pioneer, artist and naturalist, in their FIRST public exhibition, focus on birds of the Pacific Slope. Many of the works include carefully-recorded backdrops of the California he loved. Oakland Museum: April 25 through June 15.